

WM. ESTY AND CO., INC.
1537 NO. VINE STREET
HOLLYWOOD, CALIF.

(2ND REVISION)

"MYSTERY IN THE AIR"

Starring

PETER LORRE

For

CAMEL CIGARETTES

**AS
BROADCAST**

NBC - Studio A
6:00 - 6:30 PM, PST

Program Number 3
Thursday, July 17, 1947

Produced by Don Bernard
Original Radio Play "The Touch of Your Hand"
Written by Frank Wilson

Directed by Cal Kuhl

CAST

Francois.....Peter Lorre
The Voice.....Henry Morgan
Shneider.....John Brown
Bartender.....John Brown
Paul.....Hans Conruid
Roustabout.....Jack Edwards Jr.
Madelaine.....Barbara Eiler
Kelly.....Alan Reed
Michael Roy
Bob Andersen
Ed Chandler
Stan Farrar
Paul Baron
Floyd Caton

SOUND EFFECTS

Horrified crowd scream
Slap face
Wind
Heavy rain
Rain pelting windows
Door
Crowd
Footsteps
Pull heavy table
Mixing drink
Cheers and applause
Excited crowd
Heavy thunder (Manual)
Circus sounds - animals, etc.
Wooden mallets drive tent pegs
Pup tent
Climb rope ladders
Angry lions, tigers, elephants, etc.
Chair
Circus whistles
Crack of whip
Walk in squishy mud

ENGINEERING

Filter mike
Echo is needed

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MUSIC: ROLL OF CIRCUS DRUM

SCHNEIDER: (FADING IN AT CLIMAX OF HIS SPIEL) And - one second of timing that is wrong - one particle of an inch between their hands - and nothing can prevent her from falling to a certain and hor-rible death -- I warn you -- be quiet!

MUSIC: DRUMS UP

SOUND: HORRIFIED SCREAM FROM CROWD

MUSIC: HIT CLIMAX

MORGAN: "Mystery in the Air" -- starring Peter Lorre!

MUSIC: "MYSTERY IN THE AIR" THEME .. 20 SECONDS FULL-THEN B.G.

MORGAN: Each week at this hour, Peter Lorre brings us the excitement of the great stories of the strange and unusual -- of dark and compelling masterpieces culled from the four corners of world literature. Tonight, Frank Wilson's story of the circus -- "The Touch of Your Hand".

MUSIC: GONG

ROY: "Mystery In The Air" brought to you by Camel
Cigarettes!

MUSIC: UP TO CLIMAX

(APPLAUSE)

COMMERCIAL

ROY: Experience is the Best Teacher! Try a Camel -- let your own experience tell you why more people are smoking Camels than ever before!

How are things between your cigarette and your "T-Zone"? What's your "T-Zone"?.....Why, that's T for Taste and T for Throat.....your true proving ground for any cigarette. Try a Camel on your "T-Zone." See if that rich, full flavor doesn't have an especially winning way with your Taste! Let your throat learn about Camel's cool mildness! Enjoy all the things about Camels that make millions say, "Camels suit my 'T-Zone to a T!"

MUSIC: PLAY OFF INTO "MYSTERY IN THE AIR" THEME.

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SOUND: STORM AND HEAVY RAIN OUTSIDE PELTING RAIN
AGAINST THE WINDOWS CLINK OF GLASSES

BAR: (PAUSE) Tonight -- the drinks are on me, Mr. Blanchard. You know it's just about a year ago since you started coming in here to my place....every night at the same time -- rain or shine -- moon or no moon. And many's the time I've had the itch to come over to you and talk but I always changed my mind. You don't look like the kind of fellow that wants anybody to talk to him. I can't remember you ever speaking to anybody at all. No, sir. (PAUSE)

SOUND: HEAVY THUNDER

BAR: I'm sorry if I'm speakin' out of turn tonight. But, I was getting a little lonesome in here and I thought maybe you would....

LORRE: Wait. Don't go away....sit here.

BAR: Yes, sir.

SOUND: PULL UP CHAIR

LORRE: Listen.

SOUND: RAIN ON ROOF AND AGAINST WINDOWS

LORRE: Listen....it rains hard and warm against the windows. Yes -- it's raining warm upon her grave in France. That will start the flowers growing; they bloom there each Spring. (PAUSE) Give me another drink.

SOUND: POURS ANOTHER DRINK .. CLINK OF GLASSES

LORRE: To her.

SOUND: PUT GLASSES DOWN ON TABLE

LORRE: Yes, it was a night like this--and a rain like this. You've wanted to know about me--why I come and sit in silence and why I wear these black gloves. (PAUSE) Tonight I'll tell you - I will tell you because you did not ask me and I appreciate that...~~you appreciate that.~~

SOUND: THUNDER OFF

LORRE: You know why I sit here each night and stare in silence? Well...because I killed a beautiful woman and these hands - they must never touch anything again!

MUSIC: PEAK AND DOWN WITH VARIATION ON CIRCUS THEME

LORRE: You know who I am. Everybody knows my name--the whole world knows. Yes, we were the three Blanchards--the Blanchards of the circus. I and Paul - and my Madelaine --so young - so beautiful--so--she was my wife.

MUSIC: IN AND DOWN TO CIRCUS SOUNDS AND SCENE

SOUND: WOODEN MALLETS DRIVE IN LAST OF TENT PEGS...ANIMALS ETC.

CAST: (AD LIB REPLIES TO KELLY'S FOLLOWING LINES)

KELLY: (SHOUTING). Get that fly pegged down!--Hey you! Wake up! Watch that loose rope!--Snub it around the stake! --Come on--drive those pegs!

LORRE: Well, Mr. Kelly--you sound like old times!

KELLY: Hi there, Mr. Blanchard--good to see you back.

LORRE: It's good to see you, Kelly.

KELLY: Here comes Schneider, the ring master. Hey, Schneid--
look who's here.

LORRE: Hello, Schneider.

SCHNEIDER: Blanchard. Well--I spent the winter reading about you in
Billboard. Hear you wowed the people in Spain.

LORRE: Schneider--good to see you. You're looking fine--such
a tar.

SCHNEIDER: Yeah--I hung around the horse parks in Florida--you
get wonderful healthy watchin' those horses ~~run~~ and broke
too.

LORRE: Schneider - have they put up our dressing tent?

SCHNEIDER: Sure--I just saw your wife. She was looking for you. By
the way got anything new this year?

LORRE: New--how much better can we get?

SCHNEIDER: I guess you're right. Except--you heard about Johnson
joining up? He's a big draw. He was top act with
Barnum-Bailey. I hear the Old Man had to dig plenty
deep for him.

LORRE: I know Johnson and his tired tigers.

MADELAINE: (OFF-CALLING) Francois--Francois.

LORRE: Madelaine-----!

SOUND: LORRE RUNS TO HER

MADELAINÉ: (FADES IN) Francois -- I've been waiting for you.

LORRE: Hello....

MADELAINÉ: It's time to dress.

LORRE: I know, I know - Paul and I were testing the rig.

MADELAINÉ: Paul? Oh, I have not seen him..not since we left Spain.
He went to visit ~~the~~ mother in Marseilles.

LORRE: He looks wonderful - so fit and strong.

MADELAINÉ: I didn't realize how much I would miss him - even for
these few weeks.

LORRE: Is this a time to talk of Paul? Come - sit near me,
Madelaine, my darling.

MUSIC: IN .. QUICKLY DOWN

LORRE: I wonder what is keeping Paul?

MADELAINÉ: Francois - dearest -- look at me.

LORRE: Yes, but....you know it is not always safe to look
into your eyes - sometimes I feel myself falling -
into endless depths and there is a kind of pleasant
pain inside me and I hear my own voice calling,
Madelaine, Madelaine!

MADELAINÉ: Let me hold your hands - your wonderful, strong hands.
It is when I know they are stretched out for me so high
above the world that all is at peace and serene and
happy within me -- and when Paul lets me go and I feel
myself rushing through space, I close my eyes for I
know that your hands are sure and waiting to take me
from nowhere and bring me gently back to earth - to
hold me close to your heart.

MADELAINÉ: How handsome Paul is today -- ~~isn't he?~~ I could not resist throwing my arms about him and kissing him.

PAUL: (QUICKLY AND A LITTLE RED) Yes - as a sister would kiss a brother.

LORRE: Well, why not -- are you not my brother?

PAUL: There's one support I forgot to take a look at, Francois, I'm going to do it now before Schneider calls us in.

LORRE: We'll all go -----

MADELAINÉ: No -- wait, Francois ----- wait.

LORRE: Yes, my darling?

MADELAINÉ: ~~Oh, Paul, you're so silly!~~ ----- We haven't much time and I wish to talk to you of something.

LORRE: But -- there's no time to talk.

MADELAINÉ: Listen to me -- I've thought of something -- something tremendous in the act to prove for all time that there is no other act to compare with the Blanchards.

LORRE: There is nothing now -- nothing ever --

MADELAINÉ: No -- listen to me.

LORRE: What has come over you -- how flushed you are -- what has happened. Surely you don't think that I am concerned with finding you in Paul's arms (LAUGHS) How silly -- ~~isn't he?~~

MADELAINÉ: Francois! How could you say that -- how could you even think of such a thing.

EDWARDS: (CALLS) Two minutes, Mr. Blanchard.

LORRE: If you have something to say, my darling -- say it quickly.

MADELAINÉ: I have thought of a great thing - a magnificent thrill for the crowd -- something no one has ever thought of -- nor dared to.

LORRE: Madelaine -- ~~there~~ ^{there} is no time ~~to speak of such things~~ ...

MADELAINÉ: Wait -- when we finish -- when Paul lets me go and I fly thro space to you -- and you reach for me as you do and your wonderful hands find mine and take me from death.

LORRE: Yes -- yes.

MADELAINÉ: Then you must seem to miss.....

LORRE: No!

MADELAINÉ: Yes -- and as I fall and thousands scream -- quickly one sure hand reaches down and grasps my wrist and swings me back to the platform and then pulls me up.

LORRE: No --- no ----- NO!

MADELAINÉ: Yes ---- yes, my darling --- don't you see -- the masterpiece of our careers -- the greatest finish to any act in the world -----

LORRE: No -- you don't know what you're saying - the danger - and there is no time to warn Paul --- to tell Schneider ----- No!

MADELAINÉ: Yes --- yes --- my darling --- today ---- now!

LORRE: No.

MADELAINÉ: Think of the generations of your family -- The Blanchards of history -- nothing -- no one could touch them --- they were supreme.....think of us.

EDWARDS: (CALLS) Mr. Blanchard --- you're on!

MADELAINÉ: Francois -- my darling -----

LORRE: I will do it -- yes, my darling, you've asked, so I will do it -- And besides, - I am the only one in the world who can!

MADELAINÉ: (PAUSE) I love you.

MUSIC: BOFF TO CIRCUS SCENE.....BRASSY, BRIGHT

SOUND: CROWD NOISES WITH VENDORS

MUSIC: FANFARE

SCHNEIDER: (FADES IN) La-dees and gentlemen -- Presenting to you - high - high - high above your heads so small to the naked eye that they are the size of dolls -- the greatest high trapeze performers in the entire world! Introducing the Flying Blanchards -- know the world over for their death defying performance -- higher than any human beings have ever dared perform before -- and absolutely without the aid of a --saf--e--ty-- net!

MUSIC: BAND GOES TO IT

SOUND: LOUD APPLAUSE

SOUND: WHISTLE

MUSIC: (A BIT OFF) SWING INTO "OVER THE WAVES" FOR AERIAL ACT

SOUND: (BURSTS OF APPLAUSE DURING MUSIC)

MUSIC: HOLD CHORD - THEN DROP BAND - LONG BUILDING DRUM ROLL -

HOLD UNDER:

SOUND: CROWD MURMURS IN AWE -- OUT ON "QUIET - PLEASE"

SCHNEIDER: (A BIT OFF) Ladies and gentlemen -- quiet -- please --
The lives of these brave performers may depend upon you
being absolutely still. One -- second of timing that
is wrong -- one particle of an inch out of the way and
nothing can prevent her from falling to a certain and
hor-rible death! I warn you -- be quiet!

MUSIC: DRUMS BUILDING

SOUND: (SUDDEN SCREAMS OF TERROR)

(THEN A PAUSE)

CAST: (THEN A GREAT GASP)

MUSIC: NOISY FAST RELIEF PIECE

SOUND: CIRCUS CROWD GOES MAD WITH CHEERS AND APPLAUSE

MADELAINE: (TRIUMPHANT) Oh, my darling -- my darling -- I have
never felt like this before -- it was magnificent --
magnificent -- do you hear them -- do you hear them!

LORRE: Sure I hear them - take your bow.

SOUND: (APPLAUSE & CHEER PEAK AGAIN)

SCHNEIDER: (FADING IN) For the love of Heaven, Blanchard!

I thought she was a goner -- I saw you miss -- then your hand came down and grabbed her as she fell -- My heart won't stand much of this!

PAUL: (RUNNING IN) Madelaine -- Madelaine -- Oh, Madelaine -- I would have died had you fallen! Francois -- what happened -- whatever could have happened to you -- never have you missed before!

MADELAINE: We did not have time to tell you, Paul -- don't you see? ---- we planned it --- we planned it!

SCHNEIDER: You mean -- that was in the act! Great jumping owls!

PAUL: But you did not tell me -- you did not tell me!

LORRE: It was nothing -- nothing at all.

MUSIC: FIRST ACT CURTAIN

(APPLAUSE)

MORGAN: In a few moments, Mr. Peter Lorre will bring us the climax of tonight's "Mystery in the Air" when Camels present Act Two of - "The Touch Of Your Hand."

MUSIC: (GONG)

ROY: It's an ancient proverb with new meaning in today's living.

CHAND: (FILTER) Experience is the best teacher!

ROY: Yes, millions of smokers have personally found it to be true! Millions agree with this man:

MAN: I've been a Camel smoker ever since the wartime cigarette shortage. I sure got the lowdown on all cigarettes in those days, because I smoked whatever brands I could get. After that experience, I figure I'm an expert on judging cigarettes...And it's Camels for me!

ROY: Yes, the experience of smoking whatever brands they could get during the wartime cigarette shortage made smokers experts on judging the differences in cigarette quality. And many, many decided they like best the rich, full flavor of Camel's perfectly blended choice tobaccos.... the cool mildness of Camels. As a result....

CHAND: (FILTER) More people are smoking Camels than ever before.

ROY: Experience is the best teacher. Try a Camel yourself.

MUSIC: THEME..ESTABLISH..THEN FADE UNDER FOR:

SOUND: RAIN AGAINST WINDOWS

MORGAN: The rain beats down, and in the deserted bar, the man with the black gloves continues the story he has never told before--

SOUND: RAIN AGAINST THE WINDOWS

MUSIC: OUT

LORRE: Yes, my friend--

SOUND: POUR DRINK

LORRE: because we are alone and because you have never tried to pry into my soul, I am telling you my story.

MUSIC: SNEAK IN

LORRE: Well, the circus had come to a large town and all during the day a mighty storm was gathering in the mountains nearby. Night came quickly and with it came the storm... like a great black beast that had been lying in wait.

SOUND: PEAL OF THUNDER..(A BIT OFF)

LORRE: I was alone in our tent finishing dressing for the night' performance when I felt someone standing in the tent looking down at me.

MUSIC: OUT

PAUL: Francois.

LORRE: Oh, it's you Paul...a fine night, eh?

PAUL: Where is Madelaine?

LORRE: Madelaine--she dressed early and went over to see Mrs. Panelli--the poor woman is very ill and Panelli is so upset he probably won't go on tonight.

PAUL: I don't want to go on either. I never want to go on again.

LORRE: Paul!

PAUL: No--I can't stand it any more. Night after night, I've swung with my heart pounding in my throat--my hands gripping ~~the ropes~~ so hard they almost bleed while I'm cold and sick inside watching Madelaine hurl herself towards you--watching you reach and deliberately miss and reach again--Ohhh--I can't stand it any more!

SOUND: STORM CONTINUES OUTSIDE

LORRE: ~~Paul!~~ *What's the matter, Paul?*

PAUL: Francois...Francois...I'm sorry--but I can't stand it ---I can't!

LORRE: Paul--you are my brother.

PAUL: I am your brother..! But I love Madelaine, too--I...

LORRE: Paul...you must pull yourself together.

PAUL: I love her!

LORRE: Shut up, and ~~listen to me...what we are doing in the act has made us the most famous act of all time and then there is the money.....they have doubled our salaries and soon...soon Paul, we can retire.~~

PAUL: ~~Paul!~~ I can't go on. I won't--and I
won't let Madelaine go on. ~~Do you know I can't.~~

LORRE: ~~Paul!~~ Stop it! (SMACKS FACE) ~~Paul!~~

PAUL: (WHIMPERS) ~~Paul!~~ ...I'm sorry--I'm sorry.

LORRE: Go to your tent. Get into your things. ~~Paul!~~

PAUL: Yes--yes...right away.

MADELAINÉ: (COMING IN) Paul--Francois....Francois, what's the
matter with Paul--he rushed right by me?

LORRE: Nothing, my darling--he was worried about the storm.

MADELAINÉ: It is bad, Francois...very bad.

LORRE: It is nothing...here help me with the lacing of this
brace.

MUSIC: TRANSITION

EDWARDS: (CALLING) Ten minutes, Mr. Blanchard...and you both better
put on your slickers and boots...this storm's the worst
ever!

LORRE: (CALLS) Thank you--(DOWN) Ready, Madelaine?

MADELAINÉ: Ready...Francois...except this one last kiss...and my
hands in yours.

LORRE: (PAUSE) Come.

SCHNEIDER: (CALLING) Hey--are you going on, Francois?

LORRE: (CALLING) We're going on!.

SCHNEIDER: (FADES IN) Okay...You better get ready because the clowns
are on now and Johnson's act is out--so you'll be up
next.

LORRE: We'll be there.

SOUND: WALK IN MUD THROUGH THE RAIN...HEAR THE ANGRY LIONS AND TIGERS...THE ELEPHANTS...THE STORM AND THE INCREASING SOUND OF MALLETS BEING SWUNG ON PEGS...GUSTS OF WIND.

CAST: (THE SHOUTS OF ROUSTABOUTS)

KELLY: Hey, Mr. ~~Blanchard~~ ^{Blanchard}...are you going on?

LORRE: Yes.

KELLY: Okay...I hope we can hold ~~this thing...~~ ^{the big top.} ~~I got every man on the pegs tonight...we're havin' a time holding her down. You got guts, you people -- good luck to you~~

~~LORRE: Thanks, Kelly. It's nothing but a little rain.~~

~~KELLY: You can smile and you have to go up there with the center pole swaying?...man: I got to hand it to you -- to you all. I thought the clowns were good, but their smiles are painted on -- go to it, you Mr. Blanchard and we'll hold her down for you if we have to let the elephants sit on the guy ropes.~~

SOUND: STORM CHANGES FROM OUTSIDE TO INSIDE--FOOTSTEPS -- PAN CROWD

MUSIC: BRING IN CIRCUS BAND...THEN OFF MIKE AS GOING UP TO TENT TOP

SOUND: (WITH MUSIC) CLIMB ROPE LADDERS

LORRE: Then..we were high above them standing on our little platforms swaying with the storm...and she was smiling at me and Paul was standing pale beside her and my heart began to sing.

MUSIC: ^{CONTINUES} ~~THE MUSIC CONTINUES.~~

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~~SCHN: Led ees and gentlemen... (FADE AD LIE AS LORRE TAKES OVER)~~

LORRE: Oh, Circus -- with your smells and sounds -- Oh, Circus you are Heaven and Earth. Below us like the sea was the crowd and its sound like the surf -- and the wild beasts roaring. There we stood like Gods -- Yes, Gods. And I felt my love for her roaring in my ears -- no human could love like I loved her.

SCHN: *And so ladies & gentlemen, I give you the Blandier*
(FADING IN) Higher than any have dared perform before -- and without even the protection of a saf-eh-ty net.

MUSIC: (DRUMS ROLL) .. THEN INTO WALTZ (OVER THE WAVES)

LORRE: As I hung downwards ... the whole world seemed to swing with me ... I loved the beasts in their cages .. I loved everything and everyone and then I began to force the pace.

MUSIC: WALTZ THEME QUICKENS TO MATCH HIS WORDS

LORRE: I began to drive them -- drive them -- to swing faster -- and faster - faster. And as we worked the beat of her words came back to me.

M/DEL: (FILTER) Let me hold your hands -- your wonderful strong hands -- stretched out for me so high above the world -- then all is peace and serene and happy within me ...

MUSIC: WALTZ ENDS ... DRUM ROLLS

LORRE: *And now she was*
~~She was swinging now with Paul holding her free~~ -- coming towards me and away and she was smiling and it had gotten so dark and still below and then she was fading back and again I heard her word ringing in my heart ... her words. I love - I love - I love the touch of your hands ... And now I let myself gently swing forward to meet her as she rushed towards me -- her eyes closed -- her hands reaching out ... Yes, Madelaine.

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COMMERCIAL

ROY: Peter Lorre will be back in just a moment for CAMEL Cigarettes.

Each week, the makers of Camel cigarettes send free Camels to servicemen's hospitals from coast to coast. This week the Camels go to Veterans' Hospital, Sheridan, Wyoming.....U.S. AAF Station Hospital, Wright Field, Fairfield, Ohio U.S. Naval Hospital, Oakland, California.....U.S. Marine Hospital, Chicago, Illinois and Veterans' Hospital, Lyons, New Jersey.

ANDERSEN: There are many doctors among the millions of people who are Camel smokers. Three leading independent research organizations recently made a nationwide survey of doctors' cigarette preferences. One hundred thirteen thousand, five hundred, and ninety-seven doctors were asked this question: What cigarette do you smoke, Doctor? The brand named most was Camel. Yes.....

CHANDLER: (FILTER) According to a recent nationwide survey, more doctors smoke Camels than any other cigarette.

MORGAN: And now, here is Mr. Peter Lorre.

LORRE: Next week - it is our fond intent -- to stop you in the dark of night and take you by the hand to the house of an evil little character who was much given to the use of poison -- for other people. The story is a modern masterpiece from the pen of the famed English writer, W. W. Jacobs and is called, "The Interruption." May we expect your cold little noses to be pressed against the panes of the windows of the quaint little house in the lane? I hope so -- for you wouldn't want to miss murder - would you? Good-night.

(APPLAUSE)

MUSIC: "MYSTERY IN THE AIR" THEME...FADE UNDER TO BG

MORGAN: Next week, "Mystery in the Air," starring Mr. Peter Lorre, brings you W. W. Jacobs modern masterpiece, "The Interruption", with a special musical score composed and conducted by Paul Baron.

MUSIC: THEME...FADE OUT ON CUE

HITCHHIKE

CHANDLER: No one can tell you what tobacco you should smoke in your pipe -- it's entirely a matter of taste. But here's proof that Prince Albert stands for good taste; more pipes smoked Prince Albert than any other tobacco. Yes, it's the taste of P.A.'s choice tobaccos that makes it so popular; that rich, full flavor; that mellow mildness. Prince Albert is specially treated to insure against tongue bite -- crimp cut to burn slow, smoke cool. Smoke Prince Albert and see if you don't enjoy your pipe more. Prince Albert is made especially for smoking pleasure!

"Don't forget to listen in on Prince Albert's "GRAND OLE OPRY" Saturday night..(for a fun-packed half hour of folk music and homespun tales)-- with Red Foley, Minnie Pearl, Rod Brasfield -- and that frolicking Opry Gang. That's Prince Alberts "GRAND OLE OPRY" Saturday night over NBC...and as Red's special guest you'll hear...
AL DEXTER.'

MUSIC: THEME UP AND FADE FOR

ROY: Listen again next week at this same time when the makers of Camel Cigarettes present Mr. Peter Lorre in "Mystery In The Air". (Next week's play will be "The Interruption" by W.W. Jacobs)

The artists supporting Mr. Lorre were

Henry Morgan.....as "The Voice Of Mystery"

John Brown.....as The Bartender

Hans Conreid.....as Paul

Jack Edwards, Jr.....as The Roustabout

Barbara Eiler.....as Madelaine

and Allen Reed.....as Kelly

This is Michael Roy in Hollywood wishing you all a pleasant -- good night -- for Camels.

(APPLAUSE)

MUSIC: THEME TO FINISH

NBC

ANNCR: THIS IS N.B.C.....THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY